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WAUKEGAN -- Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani made a quick swing through the North Shore Friday, joining U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, to meet area police officers.

"We've got three hours with him," Kirk said as he headed out the door behind the man he described as "the voice of America's law enforcement" following a brief public appearance at Waukegan Regional Airport.

More than two dozen police officers from Waukegan, North Chicago and Gurnee had a chance to shake hands with Giuliani as he passed out copies of a Kirk-penned U.S. House resolution honoring Lake County law enforcement.

"When we look at everything going on in the world today -- with the economy and terrorism -- one of the things we lose sight of is domestic security," Giuliani said. "The men and women here today are the people who keep us safe every single day, keep us safe every single night."

Giuliani added that "we support them (and) want to make sure everyone has the resources they need," and described Kirk as "a Congressman who understands that."

House Resolution 1465 praised such groups as the Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce, the Lake County Major Crime Task Force, the Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group and the Waukegan Police Department's Neighborhood Enforcement Team for "their ongoing work protecting Lake County communities from drugs and gangs."

Among those singled out for praise were Waukegan police Det. Elias Agalianos, Lt. Joe Florip, and Det. Mark Sturtevant, and North Chicago police Det. Luis Rivera.

Flanked by the officers who turned out for the event, Kirk said, "But for the gentlemen standing behind us, our communities would be much different."

This article was edited to comply with Franking Commission guidelines.